

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01215 190931Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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O R 190902Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7487
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1215

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BOTHA REJECTS CHANGE IN PROPOSAL

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY FLEUR DE VILLIERS APPEARED IN THE
SUNDAY TIMES JUNE 18

QUOTE

1. SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED ON SEVERAL
RECENT OCCASIONS IF IT HAD ASKED THE WEST TO RENEGOTIATE SOME
OF THE TERMS OF ITS SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS FOR SOUTH WEST
AFRICA, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR PIK BOTHA, SAID
YESTERDAY.

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2. MR BOTHA WAS COMMENTING ON STRONG INDICATIONS THAT THE
UNITED STATES MIGHT BE PREPARED TO BACK SWAPO'S DEMAND TO
RENEGOTIATE SOME OF THE PROPOSALS.

3. THE KEY CHANGE IN THE PLAN WHICH SWAPO IS DEMANDING IS THE
STATIONING OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AT BASES AT KARASBURG,
IN THE SOUTH OF THE TERRITORY, DURING THE RUN-UP TO ELECTIONS.

4. SOME UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS ARE BELIEVED TO SUPPORT SWAPO'S VIEW IN THE LIGHT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAID LAST MONTH ON SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA.

5. THE AMERICAN VIEW IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE REST OF FIVE-NATION CONTACT GROUP-CANADA, BRITAIN, GERMANY AND FRANCE.

6. COMMENTING IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, MR BOTHA SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED IN ASKING, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS REMAINING IN THE TERRITORY FROM 1500 TO 5000 AFTER THE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE.

7. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED IN THE LIGHT OF THE MURDER OF CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUWO AND OTHER LEADERS, THE SWAPO ATTACK ON RUACANA, THE MINING OF THE OWAMBO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THE INCREASED KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

8. HE WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED IN DEMANDING THAT SWAPO RETREAT TO 400 KM FROM THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN BORDER AND THAT THEIR BASES BE MONITORED, HE SAID.

9. "THE FACT THAT I DID NOT DO SO WAS AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE WEST'S TASK EASIER, BUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY JUSTIFIED ON THE BASIS OF SWAPO'S AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS, WHICH AMOUNT TO A NEGATION AND REPUDIATION OF THE ESSENCE OF THE PROPOSALS."
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10. MR BOTHA SAID HE WOULD NOT REPLY IN FULL TO A STATEMENT BY THE FIVE IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY ASKING SOUTH AFRICA TO REFRAIN FROM THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
END QUOTE.
EDMONDSON

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